Claims

1. A method for recording a broadcast program, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a transport packet stream in which the program is embodied, said transport packet stream including an indicator denoting a time at which said program ends;

electronically storing said transport packet stream;

extracting said indicator from the transport packet stream;

decoding said extracted indicator; and

terminating the step of electronically storing said transport packet stream in accordance with the time denoted by said indicator.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said transport packet stream is received in accordance with a digital transport protocol.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said digital transport protocol includes video compression.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said transport packet stream is an MPEG-2 bit stream.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said indicator is located in an MPEG-2 system table.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said MPEG-2 system table is a program map table.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said indicator is incorporated into said transport packet stream by a universal data format.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said universal data format is the XML data format.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronically storing step is performed on a magnetic storage device.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronically storing step is performed on an optical storage device.

11. A digital video recorder system, comprising:

a processor receiving a transport packet stream in which the program is embodied, said transport packet stream including an indicator denoting a time at which said program ends;

an encoder/decoder for encoding and decoding the transport packet stream and converting said decoded packet stream into a signal displayable on a display device;

a storage device for electronically storing said encoded transport packet stream; and

wherein said processor extracts and decodes said indicator from the transport packet stream and terminates a previously initiated session of program recording in accordance with the time denoted by said indicator.

12. The digital video recorder system of claim 11 wherein said transport packet stream is received in accordance with a digital transport protocol.

13. The digital video recorder system of claim 12 wherein said digital transport protocol includes video compression.

14. The digital video recorder system of claim 11 wherein said transport packet stream is an MPEG-2 bit stream.

15. The digital video recorder system of claim 14 wherein said indicator is located in an MPEG-2 system table.

16. The digital video recorder system of claim 15 wherein said MPEG-2 system table is a program map table.

17. The digital video recorder system of claim 11 wherein said indicator is incorporated into said transport packet stream by a universal data format.

18. The digital video recorder system of claim 17 wherein said universal data format is the XML data format.

19. The digital video recorder system of claim 11 wherein the storage device is a magnetic storage device.

20. The digital video recorder system of claim 11 wherein the storage device is an optical storage device.

21. A method for transmitting a broadcast program, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a transport packet stream in which the program is embodied;

incorporating into said transport packet stream an indicator denoting a time at which said program ends; and

transmitting said transport packet stream in which said indicator is incorporated to a digital video recorder system for storage therein.